

Dearest Brothers,

Well, I guess you think its about time  
I write to you. But really, I just haven't had  
a chance. I was sick another week after you  
left and the next week I was kept busy  
trying to catch up on the work I missed  
then this last week I have been studying  
for exams. I took my last one to  
and was I glad. I made 96 on my ~~last~~  
last but haven't heard from other yet.  
I'm anxious to know how I came out on  
English.

We have a ball game tomorrow night  
and we have a hard team to play. You  
know, I was on 1st string before I got sick  
but since then I can't seem to get back

"in the groove". I don't know what's ~~wrong~~<sup>wrong</sup> with me. If I don't find out what it is I'll be on 6th string. You know the team we played the night you saw us? Well, we played them last week and they only beat us 2 points so you can see that we were at our worst when you saw us.

See!, I don't know how to tell you how I enjoyed your being here. I think I have two swell brothers. And Bob, don't let the night at the coal bother you. I had fun anyhow. Buck and I enjoyed putting on the little floor show, didn't we Buck? I laugh every time I think about how silly you acted when we got home.

3

I'm so proud of my pearls and roses!  
I have always dreamed of a pretty string  
of pearls. Every one thinks they are both  
pretty and the wings - they catch every  
body's eye. I have a pair on every  
coat and jacket I possess. I'm sure proud  
of them.

Looks like I'll never get to another  
dance. Every time they have had one  
had to play ball but I'd just as  
soon play ball as dance with good looking  
men (oh! well, so I am a liar).

I think I shall sleep all day tomorrow.  
I don't have an exam so I don't have  
to go to school. Wonderful, eh?

I wish I could think of something  
that mother hasn't already told you.  
He always tells you the news then  
I have to fill up space with a lot  
of bosh. Hope you don't mind.

I guess I had better stop and try to  
- some more letters. I haven't answered  
in so long they have really stached  
on me.

Answer soon and be ~~good~~ careful!

Love,  
Jean

January 1944\*

Dearest Brothers,

Well, I guess you think it's about time I wrote to you. But really, I just haven't had a chance. I was sick another week after you left and the next week I was kept busy trying to up on the work I messed then this last week I have been studying for exams. I took my last one today and was I glad. I made 90 on my shorthand but hadn't heard from others yet. I'm anxious to know how I came out on English.

We have a ball game tomorrow night and we have a hard team to play. You know I was on first string before I got sick but since then I can't seem to get back in the groove. I don't know what's wrong with me. If I don't find out what it is I'll be on 4<sup>th</sup> string. You know the team we played the night you saw us? Well, we played them last week and they only beat us 2 points so you can see that we were at our worst when you saw us.

Gee! I don't know how to tell you how I enjoyed your being here. I think I have two swell brothers. And Bob, don't let the night at the cave bother you. I had fun anyhow. Brock and I enjoyed putting on the little floor show, didn't we Brock. I laugh every time I think about how silly you acted when we got home.

I'm so proud of my pearls and cross! I have always dreamed of a pretty string of pearls. Everyone thinks they are both pretty and the wings-they catch everybody's eye. I have a pair on every coat and jacket I possess. I'm sure proud of them.

Looks like I'll never get to another dance. Every time they have had one I had to play ball but I'd just as soon play ball as dance with good looking men (Oh! well, so I am a liar).

I think I shall sleep all day tomorrow. I don't have an exam so I don't have to go to school. Wonderful eh?

I wish I could think of something that mother hasn't already told you. She always tells you the news then I have to fill up space with a lot of hooey. Hope you don't mind.

I guess I had better stop and try to write some more letters. I haven't answered any in so long they have really stacked up on me.

Answer soon and be careful.

Love, Jean

\*This letter mentions that Jean was sick after Bob and Brock left. Their trip home is mentioned in the letter dated January 12, 1944.

WAR DEPARTMENT

I West Shoshone  
Cataldo, Idaho

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

" AIRMAIL "

To Sgt. Talmane B. Hornbill  
Box. 700220  
539th Bomb Squadron, A.A.F.  
Muroc, California



January 12, 1944  
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

Hello honey. How is the "desert trouper" doing by now? I received a letter from you yesterday and one the day before and so you say "Do I mind reading your letter,!"!! Are you kidding. Believe it or not but I just love to get those letters and really look forward to them.

You know what I'm doing. I'm cheating on Uncle Sam and writing this at the office. In the first places, I would much write rather write work and in the second place I have a terrific head ache. Nope, I'm not drinking rum but from losing my sleep. We came out to the base dance hall and you know how they are. We went in Freds to eat after we got in and so--- I didn't get in bed until about 2 and getting up at 6 ---Ho!

Hum!! Such is the life of a working gal. Just you wait till I get my million saved up. Then I'm going to retire and stay out all nite and sleep to all day. Remember I told you when I got that million I was going to go the Hawaiin Islands and you were going to meet me there.

You know I just cant understand whats the matter with this typewriter. It just won't behave its self. Maybe I just haven't the right touch---or something! What do you think? Don't answer that. Ha! Ha!

Gee, Brock, you really do sound lonesome so you know what I am going to do? I can't come to see you myself--at least until the weather clears up--you know how it is "the weathers bad for flying and I can't get either one of my "24" off the ground--so----I'm going to send you a friend of mine. I had to go see the postmaster and get permission to send her through the mail like I am but when I told him it was for one of the Thornhills and told him where you were he was really swell. He said to be sure and tell you that he send his sympathy to you kids way out there. Take real good care of her won't you cause she is just a fragile little thing. Oh, I almost forgot, she doesn't know a whole lot about golf but I imagine she will learn fast. Ha!Ha'. I'd

love to see your face when you read this. But then you can't say I didn't try.

Gee, have I got a surprise for you and Bob. I know this will be pretty hard to take but don't take it too seriously. You know, into everyone's life certain disappointments must come and this is just one of those things you will have to brace yourself for and take. I know it will be a terrific shock when you hear this but one of your old girl friends here in town --- [redacted] who you really admired, is being married Sunday. Yes, none other than "Miles. She finally hooked herself a Lt. Poor guy, My goodness, [redacted] saying!!

[redacted]  
I am going to go the basketball game tonite. Wan't to come  
I'd sure love to have you. No kidding, I sure do miss having you  
here. We really did have a lot of fun. The game is going to be in the  
gym, at the high school. It will be the first game I have been to this year  
and I'll probably just about holler myself hoarse. Remember that foot ball  
game.

By the way, how is Ray? (Gee, I'm a poet and I guess I don't know it).  
This is getting worse and worse.....I'm in one of those silly moods-----

Say, you really did all right while you were home didn't you. That  
sure is terible that you didn't find your money. Do you really think that  
the colored girl took it?

Wanda and I went to the Memorial Hall together last Friday. We  
want, we saw, we conqueréd.....Anyway, we danced. No, we didn't go walking  
in the park, it was much to cold. Fifteen below zero is just a-too cold for  
me. Of course, we couldn't play any golf. No car, and its too far out to  
the golf course.

The bombardier came out today and I just couldn't resist this joke.  
I knew you would like it. "What is more beautiful than a pretty girl to behold."  
"Such grammar! You mean to be held!"

Brock, I surewish you could be here now if you want to see some snow.

There is about four or five inches of snow on the ground now and it is really cold. If you were here now, you would probably wear two flying suits. I think if I could find one to fit me I would probably start wearing one.

Oh, my goodness, why doesn't somebody tell me these things. I've have been so interested in writing this letter that I haven't even looked at the clock and its five o'clock. Can't you just see me walking down the high-way. If I don't hurry I'm going to get left. Bye for now and write soon like to get your letters.

Love,

Ruth

Dear Mother & all

January 12, 1944

I am rather late in writing but have been working day and night. Sure that something comes up every night so that we have to work. I only have three men working with me and they really keep us going. I don't see any hope of catching up any time soon either. I have one man going on furlough in a couple of days so guess <sup>we</sup> will really be busy.

We hadn't been paid yet, but may get part pay the 15<sup>th</sup>. If so will send you some. I got \$25.00 for driving my car from Pocatello so we will have enough to get by on. We want to finish the payments on the car next month so we can start that bank account growing again. We are going into town day after tomorrow for a couple of days. First time we have been off post since we got back.

I got me a radio the other day & it helps a lot. It really had to do without one often being up to one.

How are all the sick getting along? I am beginning  
to wonder we hadn't heard from you since we got back.  
Did you get the telegram & letter from Wall. There you  
have been busy tho cleaning up the mess we made.  
I really enjoyed it tho. Too bad you got sick or we  
would have gone to Bob's again or some other dance  
if B.L was satisfied. I was disappointed at the  
dance that night but I thought there would be  
good music & a big crowd.

Is motor still at G.P. Hop so far it will  
be nice for him.

I have still got a bad cold & it don't seem  
to be getting any better. Guess I will have to  
get something for it, or bob or I hate to. I think  
Brook still has one too. They have him working  
12 hrs a day now & it is pretty hard on him. His hrs  
are from 12:00 noon to 12:00 midnight.

Have you sent my tablet set yet? I completely  
left by without it.

Give my love to all,

Love Bob & Brook

January 12, 1944

Dear Mother and all,

I am rather late in writing but have been working day and night. Seems that something comes up every night so that we have to work. I only have three men working with me and they really keep us going. I don't see any hope of catching up any time soon in this. I have one man going on furlough in a couple of days so guess we will really be busy.

We hadn't been paid yet, but may get part pay the 15<sup>th</sup>. If so will send you some. I got \$25 for driving my car from Pocatello so we will have enough to get by on. We want to finish the payments on the car next month so we can start that bank account growing again. We are going into town day after tomorrow for a couple of days. First time we have been off post since we got back.

I got me a radio the other day and it helps a lot. It's really hard to do without one after being used to one.

How are all the sick getting along? I am beginning to wonder. We hadn't heard from you since we got back. Did you get the telegram & letter I wrote. Guess you have been busy though cleaning up the mess we made. I really enjoyed it though. Too bad you got sick for we would have gone to Bud's again or somewhere. I wonder if B.J. was satisfied. I was disappointed at the dance that night but I thought there would be good music and a big crowd.

Is Major still at G.P. Hope so for it will be nice for him.

I have still got a bad cold & it don't seem to be getting any better. Guess I will have to get something for it as bad as I hate too. I think Brock still has one too. They have him working 12 hours a day now & it is pretty hard on him. Hours are from 12:00 noon to 1:00 midnight.

Have you sent my tabit set yet? I can hardly get by without it.

Give my love to all,

Love, Bob and Brock

658 West Lemon  
Pocatello, Idaho



2/2/44. Major B. Thorndill  
Asn. 700 220<sup>3</sup>

539th Bomb Squadron, A.A.F.  
Muroc,  
California



ARMY AIR BASE  
POCATELLO, IDAHO

February 5, 1944  
Pocatello, Idaho

Dear Brock,

I've shopped and shopped all through the town.  
I've tried so hard, but still haven't found,  
A card to express what a nice surprise.  
It was when that gift box met my eye.

I've had a lot of elaborate gifts,  
But none of them gave me the lift  
Than the valentine treat I got from you,  
And Oh! the little things they do!

So I want to say it to you dear Brock,  
That I feel good enough now to write.  
But most of all I want to say,  
That your gifts to me has really U.K.  
Hello sweet - thanks for the sweets!

You didn't know I was a poet did you?  
(Well, so you're not convinced). No, feeling  
dough, I was so pleased when I received  
the box the other day and I'll sure  
enjoyed it. Sweets are hard to get now days.

(O.K. go ahead & laugh - I can just see  
the expression on your face). Remember  
I always said you are a good boy I like  
you!

Happy day! They aren't going to take  
my head and put it away from me  
after all. No, they aren't going to close the  
base & I'm kinda glad 'cause I do have  
a lot of fun out here. Tomorrow  
night is the base dance - remember the  
last one we went to? I sure do -

Here it is blue Monday & I'm writing  
this letter at the office. It sure is blue --  
outside I mean. I think it is going  
to snow -

Guess what - I bought me a new  
sweater - a pink one - well!

You & Bob & Ray are really having  
yourself a time aren't you! I sure  
would love to come to L.A. Hell, the  
mos cars last forever -

From the way you talk about the  
girls there they must really be  
something. Oh well, maybe they will  
send you back to Poc. I hope -

658 West Lemon  
Pocatello, Idaho



2/28/44  
Maj. Palmer B. Thorndill  
Asn. 700 220<sup>3</sup>

539th Bomb Squadron, A.A.F.  
Myers,  
California



ARMY AIR BASE  
POCATELLO, IDAHO

February 5, 1944  
Pocatello, Idaho

Dear Brock,

I've shopped and shopped all through the town.  
I've tried so hard, but still haven't found,  
A card to express what a nice surprise.  
It was when that gift box met my eye.

I've had a lot of elaborate gifts,  
But none of them gave me the lift  
Than the valentine treat I got from you,  
And Oh! the little things they do!

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But most of all I want to say,  
That your gifts to me has really U.K.  
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(Well, so you're not convinced). No, feeling  
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the box the other day and I'll sure  
enjoyed it. Sweets are hard to get now days.

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the expression on your face). Remember  
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Happy day! They aren't going to take  
my head and put it away from me  
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a lot of fun out here. Tomorrow  
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last one we went to? I sure do -

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this letter at the office. It sure is blue --  
outside I mean. I think it is going  
to snow -

Guess what - I bought me a new  
sweater - a pink one - well!

You & Bob & Ray are really having  
yourself a time aren't you! I sure  
would love to come to L.A. Hell, the  
mos cars last forever -

From the way you talk about the  
girls there they must really be  
something. Oh well, maybe they will  
send you back to Poc. I hope -



ARMY AIR BASE  
POCATELLO, IDAHO

Went to the Memorial Hall Tuesday night & really had a good time. That place really gets a swell band. Tell Bob I haven't been going walking in the park with any strangers though. It's much too cold! Ha! Ha!

I haven't seen Itanka for a couple of days. She has gone to Montana to visit some of her relatives or something.

You should have been here. Last Sat. night they had the President's Ball in the High School, & it was some dance. I even rated second best night.

Gee, I sure feel lazy today. Know what I'd like to do. Just curl up & go to sleep. Oh, well. Such is the life of a working gal. I slept until almost noon yesterday morning. Fine thing!

Tell Bauck there is a Lt. in here, (just my Boss) who doesn't seem to

see things my way. For some strange  
reason he thinks I had better get to  
work. Can't imagine why. Can you?

In I almost forgot to tell you Jim  
O'Brien is getting married. Any-way  
so I hear. Ask him about it - It a cute  
little gal from here - she doesn't have  
marching kid legs. Ha! Ha!

Well so long for now - - Don't get  
lost in that year big City - - they're among  
the golf Courses there are really long  
& complicated - - O-h - !

Bye now - It's late now.

Louie,  
Ruth

February 5, 1944  
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

I've shopped and shopped all thorough this town. I've tried so hard, but still haven't found a card to express what a nice surprise it was when that gift box met my eyes. I've had a lot of elaborate gift, but none of them game me the lift than the valentine treat I got from you. And oh! The letters the things they do! So I want to express to you my dear Brock that I feel so sorry for you at Muroc, but most of all I want to say that your gift to me was really OK.

Hello sweet – thanks for the sweets! You didn't know I was a poet did you? (well, so your not convinced). No fooling though, I was so pleased when I received the box the other day and I've sure enjoyed it. Sweets are hard to get now days (OK go ahead and laugh – I can just see the expression on your face). Remember I always said you are a [unreadable] but I like you!

Happy Day! They aren't going to take my bread and butter away from me after all. No, they aren't going to close the base & I'm kinda glad cause I do have a lot of fun out here. Tomorrow Night is the Base Dance – Remember the last one we went to? I sure do –

Her it is blue Monday & I'm writing this letter at the office. It sure is blue – outside I man. I think it is going to snow.

Guess what – I bought me a new sweater – a pink one – well!

You & Bob & Ray are really having yourself a time aren't you! I sure would love to come to L.A. Well, the snow can't last forever.

From the way you tell about the girls there they must really be something. Oh well, maybe they will send you back to Poc. I hope.

Went to the Memorial Hall Friday night & really had a good time. That place really gets a swell crowd. Tell Bob I haven't been going walking in the park with any strangers though – It's much too cold! Ha! Ha!

I haven't seen Wanda for a couple of days. She has gone to Montana to visit some of her relatives or something.

You should have been here last Sat. night. They had the Presidents Ball in the High School & it was some dance. I even rated roses that night.

Gee, I sure feel lazy today. Know what I'd like to do. Just curl up & go to sleep. Oh, well, such is the life of a working gal. I slept until almost noon yesterday morning, Fine thing!

Well Brock there is a Lt. in here (just my boss) who doesn't seem to see things my way. For some strange reason he thinks I had better get to work. Can't imagine why, can you?

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you – Jim O'Brien is getting married. Anyway so I hear! Ask him about it – it's a cute little gal from here - & she doesn't have mockingbird legs. Ha! Ha!

Well, so long for now. Don't get lost in that big city, they tell me the golf courses there are really large & complicated – Ohhh!

Bye now. Write soon

Love, Ruth

658 H. Sherman  
Locatello, Idaho



Mrs. Agnes B. Rockhill  
Box 7002200

539a Bowl of Guadalupe R.R.  
Muroc, California



Feb. 13, 1944  
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

Hello there. Remember me? Here is Sunday afternoon and it sure is a lazy day. I got up and went to church at 3 o'clock & I thought sure I was going to fire up to Devil's Hole before I got home. I put my house pants on & I haven't stuck my nose out since. After I finish this letter I'm going to clean up & get the phone.

Say you are neatly doing I.W. Your selfless post dates are concerned. Tell me, are the girls down there yet? I sure hope they send you back here. They are expecting some to go in less than a week. Cause the whole 46th pulled out last Friday. Gee, was they Base Dance swell last Tuesday. We never seen so many fellows in one

evening + in one place for a long time  
and I sure had a good time. I used  
of coming home in a car with 12 of us.  
It let I mean it was crowded.

Well, beginning next Thursday I'm  
going to be a lady of leisure for awhile  
and am never going to sleep. I'm  
going to take Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
off. Happy Day.

I've got a surprise this afternoon.  
My old Boss called me up and invited  
me to take my old job back. I agreed  
with Coming back in town to work for  
I have hate to go back to that place.  
I think I'll just ride along with  
my attorney - besides making ~~for~~ by  
good money for having a wonderful  
time.

Guess what! They have taken  
\$177.00 out of my check by income  
tax and Dad says I still have about  
\$52.00 to pay. Fine thing! I think  
I'll go back to working at the dime stores.



ARMY AIR BASE  
POCATELLO, IDAHO

Did I tell you that my brother  
Richard has a girl friend and he just  
turned 15 yesterday? See what I mean  
Nothing like keeping up the Raymond  
expectations Ha! Ha!

How is Bob? Does he have the  
same fellow - but this you have on  
date now is it just you? No, looking  
me ~~over~~ had a look at her last did I  
see?

If you remember Killa Johnson -  
my girl friend as Bob took out a  
couple of times? She got married  
last week. It was Mr. Chirocco - she  
had gone with him about three months  
last week I calls it. We do go  
overseas now.

Can you imagine - I married the <sup>Monogram</sup> ~~boss~~

Well done Friday nite - I guess,  
they'll wonder what happened. Came in  
always there - I gave a party while  
& the girl from the ~~Chinamaned~~ Chinese  
met over to the Shanghae for dinner  
and then we came over here & played  
Cards. For a "hen party" we had a  
pretty good time.

Somebody put a piece in the  
Confucius about me the other day.  
said some-thing about me being  
bored was getting my cute Golden  
feet rings - the latest being open  
& "B-24".

Tell them, guess I'll sign off  
for now and get ready to milk the  
cow's milk too hard and write soon.  
Bye now.

Love,  
Ruth

Feb. 13, 1944  
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

Hello there, remember me! Here it is Sunday afternoon and it sure is a lazy day. I got up and went to church at 9 o'clock & I thought sure I was going to freeze to death before I got home. I put my house coat on & I haven't stuck my nose out since. After I finish this letter I'm going to clean up & go to the show.

Say, you are really doing OK for yourself as far as dates are concerned. Tell me are the girls down there pretty? I sure hope they send you back here. They are expecting some troops in here right away cause the whole 464<sup>th</sup> pulled out last Wed. Gee, was the base dance swell last Tuesday. I've never seen so many fellows in one evening & in one place for a long time and I sure had a good time. I wound up coming home in a car with 12 of us - what I mean it was a crowd.

Well, beginning next Thursday I'm going to be a lady of leisure for a while and am I ever going to sleep. I'm going to take Thursday, Friday, Sat., & Sun. off. Happy Day!

Sure got a surprise this afternoon. My old boss called me up and wants me to take my old job back. I wouldn't mind coming back in town to work. I'd sure hate to go back to that madhouse. I think I'll just ride along with the army - besides making pretty good money I am having a wonderful time.

Guess what! They have taken \$177 out of my check for income tax and dad says I still have about \$50 to pay. Fine thing! I think I'll go back to working at the dime stores.

Did I tell you that my brother Richard has a girlfriend and he just turned 15 yesterday. See what I mean, nothing like keeping up the Raymond reputation (Ha! Ha!)

How is Bob? Does he have the same fellows luck that you have on dates or is it just you? No fooling we sure had lots of fun here didn't we?

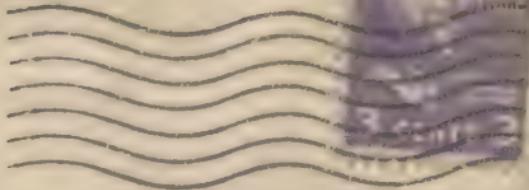
If you remember Rilla Robinson - my girlfriend that Bob took out a couple of times? She got married last week. It was Lt. Chicolla - she has gone with him about three months. Fast work I calls it! He has gone overseas now.

Can you imagine - I missed the Memorial Hall dance Friday night - I guess they'll wonder what happened cause I'm always there. I gave a party for Rilla & the girls from the office instead. I've went over to the Shanghai for dinner and then we came over here & played cards. For a "hen party" we had a pretty good time.

Oh somebody put a piece in the Bombardier about me the other day. Said something about wondering [unreadable] I was getting my cute collection of ear rings - the latest being a pair of "B-24s"

Well dear, guess I'll sign off for now and get ready to mail this. Don't work too hard and write soon.

Bye now, Love, Ruth



Lt. Sgt. Edmudge B. Thornhill  
53rd Bomb Sq.

A.A.3.

Murrieta Calif.

My dearest Brothers,

Well, how is Hollywood getting along now that you two are near the place. I bet they are wondering how they evr did without you, don't you? Of, course, there's no condiet in our family.

Did I tell you we got our class rings the dther day? They are so pretty. But I didn't keep mine long, Johnny got it. You know how it is. I am wearing his watchtoo and fits the only time piece around the house since Robert (Brock broke the clock.

We play Bogue Chitto tonight and I hear they have a darn good team too. Wish us luck, for we'll probably need plenty of it before we get back here. We have so much fun on he trips, I hate to see the season end worse than anything. And I am having so much fun, I hate to think about finishing school next year. I am glad now that I moved to <sup>m</sup>c'comb, but I owe my friendships to basket ball. I didn't know any one ~~badly~~ hardly before I went out for ball and now I know them all.

I went to the midnight show with Johnny Sat. night and Saw "Life Boat." It was good but I almost squezzed his hand off before the thing was over. Bell rang, so will finish later.

I'm sorry but this is the first chance I have had to ~~get~~ finish this darn letter. I started it mon. and here it is wed. but at least I have a little bit more news. We went Bogue Chitto Mon. night and last night. Boy! were they rough. The year

had to get one girl out of the game she got a  
bad. I didn't do so hot last night. I only made 4 points.  
I was sort of worn out from the game Mon. night in  
which I got knocked out in a silly sort of way. I  
made 21 points Mon. night. Not bad eh?

You know, I'm sort of glad my mother was back  
to Boston. But in if they will treat her right.  
Since she left mother has been so much better  
when she was here mom had us all in such  
high tension we were ready to explode at any  
time when my mother looked bad mother would go  
around the house crying all day. Then G.H. worried  
about mother. But now ~~she's getting better~~.

We have a semi-regional tournament coming  
up next week and we will most likely have to  
play Sanwood so wish us luck, we'd need it  
Buck, where is that I phoned you we're going  
to send me from Hollywood?

Have to go now so be sweet and remember —

Sgt < I love you,  
Betty Ann

Feb 24, 1944

My dearest brothers,

(the first part of this letter is typewritten and not transcribed)

I'm sorry but this is the first chance I have had to finish this darn letter. I started it Mon. and here it is Wed. but at least I have a little bit more news. We beat Bogue Chitto Mon. night and last night. Boy! Were they rough. The referee had to put one girl out of the game she got so bad. I didn't do so hot last night. I only made 4 points. I was sort of worn out from the game Mon. Night in which I got knocked out in a weird sort of way. I made 21 pints Mon. night. Not bad eh?

You know, I'm sort of glad G. mother went back to Jackson—that is if they will treat her right. Since she left mother has been so much better. When she was her mom had us all in such high tension we were ready to scream and run. And when G. mother looked bad mother would go around the house crying all day. Then GM worried about mother. But now they are both better off.

We have a sub-regional tournament coming up next week and we will most likely have to play Fernwood so wish us luck, we'll need it.

Brock, where is that lipstick you were going to send me from Hollywood?

Have to go now so bee sweet and remember---

I love you, Betty Jean.

258 West Freeman  
Weaverville, Idaho



A/F St. Almaza - B. Thornehill

Gen. 7002200

539a Longudson, G.G.T.

Museo

California

March 17<sup>th</sup> 1900  
Pocatello, Idaho.

Kearney Brock,

Somebody over the rainbow! Remind  
my 24's - Hell yesterday the sun was shining  
the water was big & high and I was  
crying for fear I'd get in the water & not  
see this white deer. They got up &  
as off the big class when I went  
I stopped & went to the window. I  
saw the whitetail deer up there. I could  
see that spot of white along with  
a wood duck, Jim was looking out the  
front door & got the gun & this is  
what "it" said "I am in! It has to be - - well  
somebody told me it was like me the  
little man that wasn't there. So neither  
he nor this one I need my eyes tested.  
Anyway, he took off & I decided  
that I better not shoot - just for fun  
& I was. This morning I kept thinking  
into the season and the first few

No, I'm not crazy. I work for the Master-maste  
and it's beginning to affect me. If I can  
clean this up when I'm made aware  
what was around it'd like if I had  
just a real mixed number! Well!

You you're just it. I'm a wimp  
I'm trying my self immensely - willing to  
you. My boss is a teet. Happy day! Could  
I do this? I don't like it. I'm not  
like that.

I'll tell him this & take you home  
if his Raymond isn't going to go to the dance. I think  
he will be able to stand the shock. I'm going  
to an event at the High-School. "Casablanca"  
should be pretty good.

Have you ever heard of Noblesville & his  
orchestra? They played our here for the reu-  
nion & I especially enjoyed them over the  
food. The was the place packed! Eddie  
Kauf and his orchestra are going to play at the  
the theatre next week, I guess. It gets to  
him is hot. I just wish they would have a  
"dance".

I planned to have something to talk to  
you the week of 7/15. You could see me  
getting up early & to the wall of the train I  
would lean the place where my un-  
lucky accident had happened! The other morning  
as we had just come down I began to be  
tired. However I was still talking. He said  
he didn't see you very often. Oh, he took  
the bus and the subway and went to  
work together.

"The subway? What do you mean?"  
I asked him. "The subway? You take  
the subway?"  
Oh, "you know it's the subway," he said.  
"I'm going to New York. Well, the  
subway. I have a place with a friend there.  
He is like me. He is a teacher. I am  
not teaching here now. I am not  
able to teach here any more. I  
have to go to work."

I got a letter from my brother on  
postals and on his first mail from (over)

going to be here - worth another  
month or two.

We have given up the "Family" - the  
one-bit-of-everything idea we had.  
A family of species, the Meadowlark, Shrike,  
and Cowbird, are going to be our focus.  
We hope to make the local field more  
interesting.

You, and I, are still out there  
every day - up bright hope every  
morning.

Many birds are showing signs of the  
start of Molt - Shrike, cowbird  
will take you with you.

The birds are getting more and more  
colorful, and the weather is warming up.  
We will be here until the end of the month  
for sure. I may leave a bit earlier and  
come back with some.

March 17, 1944  
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

Somewhere over the Rainbow! Remember my "24s". Well yesterday the sun was shining, the weather was fine for flying and I was coming far from behind the "Hills of Idaho" to see my favorite [unreadable]. My plane & I got off to a fine start. Then is when it happened and I just couldn't resist. I saw the rainbow. So, says I, if I could just get that pot of gold and bring it along what a wonderful time we would have. So I landed my plane & got the gold - & this is where "yehredi" came in. It is he -well some lady told me once that he was the little man that wasn't there but either e was there or I need my eyes tested. Anyway, he took the gold & I decided that I better head for home. Just for proof that I wasn't dreaming I dipped this stationary into the rainbow and here is the proof.

No, I'm not crazy. I work for the quartermaster and it's beginning to affect me. If I can dream this up when I'm wide awake & sober what would it be like if I had one of your special mixed rum cokes! Ahhh!

Yes. You've guessed it - I'm at the office and enjoying myself immensely writing to you. My boss isn't here. Happy Day! Could it be that I don't like Lts. - Ah no, nothing like that.

Well here it is Friday night & guess what - Miss Raymond isn't going to the dance. Think they will be able to stand the shock? I'm going to an operetta at the high school - "Rosalie". It should be perfectly good.

Have you ever heard of Noble Sissle and his orchestra? They played out here (at the new dance hall) last Friday night and they are pretty good. Gee, was that place packed! Herbie Kay and his orchestra are going to play out here at the theatre next week. I guess I'll get to hear it but I sure wish they would have a dance.

I guess I told you about having to catch the bus this week at 7:15. You should see me getting up at 6:00am. Half of the time I go flying down the street with my eyes still closed. Fine thing! The other morning on the bus I saw Jimmy O'Brien & talked to him. He was leaving that day. He said he didn't see you very often. Oh, he told me about one time when you went in to town together.

So, you get into town often, do you. Well, Mr. Lucky, that's really swell. Do you ever go to the Hollywood Canteen?

Oh, I got myself a new job. There was a fellow quit in the warehouse. Well, the civilian fellow here in the office (the one I didn't like) was transferred to the warehouse and I took his job as Chief Clerk. I guess it will be a pretty good job after everything gets organized. I got a letter from my father again yesterday and he isn't getting his mail again. Fine thing! He goes for about a month at a time between letters.

Oh, have you ever eaten "Raviolis. It's some kind of a dinner of meats. Well, they are having a Ravioli dinner at the Memorial Hall Sunday and I guess I'm going. I don't know for sure what the results will be but I'll find out - I'll try it once.

Yes, our base is still just a "Ghost City". They are expecting the troops any day now though.

Oh, Jimmy told me that they were getting [unreadable] in at Muroc. I don't suppose you will like that will you.

Oh, oh, the devil just came in in the form of a man with a silver bar on his shoulder. That means trouble for me. It's my boss & I better get to work. Bye for now and write soon.

Love, Ruth

Lynchburg, Va. March 22, 1944

Dearest Family:

Jep has been saying every week that she was going to write you all and I have put her off until now, but if she writes again I will do it. She is still here, so we have to stay up late at night, and she is getting more and more serious about getting married. She is going to do my chores so I would get at it. Don't tell her, but I had been wanting to write anyhow, so here it is.

Ridgebrook is Lt. George J. Miller of the Army Air Corps, stationed at Patterson Field, Ohio. He is a tall, thin, dark-haired man, very good looking, and very young. He is from Toledo, Ohio, and his parents live there. He is the son of a doctor, who lives in Toledo, and he has a brother, who is a pilot in the Air Corps. He is a good cook for the welding, as well as being a good welder. He is a good boy, and I hope he will be a good husband.

When Jep was up at Maxine's this past summer she met George who was home on leave. He is home in Ithaca. He married with a real class friend of mine. George is a nice boy, fellow, sweet mannered and quiet, but he takes everything and everybody, well mad, and just an all around nice person. He has a lot of opportunities to go which suits Jep to a T. They should have a mighty full life together. He is so out of the love birds. He likes to fish, a good game of billiards, or bowling; but just as much as enjoys going to Church and has nice dear wife too. He has never been married, just hasn't found the one, and when he did he got carried over. They really have it bad.

He spent his last furlough in February with us, and we are yet to be the best of friends. I both yet to be as fond of him as Maxine's tell and I am in no small compliment. I feel sure all of you would like him. If you didn't, you'd better not to. Everybody that he met while here were very, very favorably impressed with him.

Dora Porter, across the street from us, gave a Troussseau shower for Jep last week, and you never saw the like of pretty things! I don't believe I ever went to a bridal shower where the honoree got as many nice things - 3 perfectly beautiful gowns, a white taffeta house coat, French green satin bedroom slippers to match, 3 dimensional satin slips - 3 just gorgeous lace-trimmed slips - a silk quilted bed jacket - 3 pair of lace silk lace-trimmed panties - a grosgrain room striped mat - striking purple, and isn't pretty - 3 pair of hose - dusting powder - toilet water - perfume - handkerchiefs. That is all I can think of, but is was a whole dining room table full.

It just made my heart fill to popping to know that they thought just enough of her, for the ones given her inexpensive things which would have served the purpose, but it looked like they all wanted her to know how very much they loved her. I had always thought Jep was too good to her friends and that they didn't appreciate it; but they changed my mind about it.

I was about to forgo to tell you that George is Jep's age, and volunteeried right after Pauli Marpor before the 39 limit. He looks and acts, like her, and younger than he is. Sort of boyish looking.

Enough about the love birds.

Ben and myself are already packed up now. I can't get to see you leave in time but we'll be back for a little while this time. Just after you leave and she will be taking off.

Ben has been real sick. He has had the flu several times this winter, one or two, would start out again just as soon as he got able to be around around the house, so used before last it knocked him down. He stayed in the hotel sick all day, and got up out of bed and drove home 3 miles. Tricked me. Then he came in the front door I knew he was a mighty sick man. He just acted so important - you could hear him coughing all over the house. He is still terribly sick and the doctor said he didn't want him to even think about going to work until week after next. That's like being weeks at home and away from work, but he has made up his mind to do just exactly that. It really belli's him, for a change. He is feeling good now, just weak, and now Joe is spoiling him. No wonder he hates to see her go, she has got him rotten. He will have to come out of a lot of the visiting and traveling after no longer. I don't know what he would have done without her. If he had gone to his sick bed sick if was well that he waited until he could have a nurse.

We rec'd five letters from brother Harry, wasn't that a haul. It's so good - but written. He seems to be getting along fine, considering what he has to do here in the world. He said the food is bad and talks as if he aren't working too hard. I don't believe he's homesick, and can't believe he could stand it if everyone didn't say good about America. Iagine he would write him every day and one of his first things, would be news from over so many others especially. It is surprising how many men are taking time to write to him regularly, isn't it? His boss with Tri-State, Mr. Johnson and several other men are always good about writing him. I don't think he's made but one trip to Italy, but he talked as if he expected to go back over there again. I think he helped with the evacuating of the wounded men. I only know what I could read between the lines.

Janine is getting along fine, outside of some of the usual complaints. She's having fun with English students this month. She had a fun afternoon with a doctor and he told her it had gotten on her nerves so bad she needed to get away. Now she was worried too much about home to be happy. I think she is ideally happy. They would have to work mighty hard, and be terribly poor not to be happy and enjoy life. I am so glad to be around them. I think as if they are beautiful. I didn't realize that men, they have got a man, a man who is a beauty, and I have not been beauty or sold out, just

so. It's just about time to take off for the winter and I expect to go to the "States". All of you write when you can and now and then. Since we are writing less, the letters are shorter.

Aunt Bess, Darling: I will write again real soon. I thought I should just write the family about her friend now but she had decided definitely. These are the kindest two people you ever saw. Joe said she is by far kinder than she ever treated s/he would be, and more George with a deeper, sweeter love than she ever did. George. He is simply the sweetest man. I do wish you had met him, for you would have been just like us. I will have to write again, and I can't help it. Joe has one of the nicest and sweetest personalities I ever seen.

I am so happy that her husband wants to get married. I thought I had to do it up right this time. We just got some pretty things. I finished mine for her new fur coat, black patent, and George said cut them our the best until it is 700, and ours is 150 or a medium pattern, and brother George 150 and Ben is going to give us something else. They are all very good and feel like more than they ever will again, so we think it will be a good wedding. I will have a little jacket to go back on. Joe is going to wear a grey lace-trimmed dress, with purple hat, trimmed with lavender and pink roses. Light not sound pretty but it looks lovely. He will wear the black coat, black patent slippers, and white gloves. I just to look right out.

"Well, I am sorry. I would like to see them, but I am not so comfortable happy, it makes my heart sing. How I wish Mother could see her and George together. Aunt Betty is so tender towards her, and she thinks she is so pretty, and how it tickles him because she is so much about her dressing. If they don't have an exceptionally happy marriage, I sure miss my guess. Let us just hope she is as happy as Dell and Mac and Dan and me." I ask no more.

"By the way, the other night, Dan said how's Aunt Tess. I told him that I hadn't heard from you, so I sent her last letter to read. He said 'I think you had better write to her again, for she will be sick again.' He dearly loves you, Aunt Tess. He liked you very well when I was there, though I saw a lot of them, but you are his pet, and he thinks you are the best like nothing, and he just adores you."

I hope Major is still close enough to get to see Ava real often. I am so happy that she has had a chance to get out and have some fun, for she has been tied down right since the past 5 years, and not any too well either, it will do her good to have some real honest fun.

Only hope you are feeling 100% better and are all right for the year now.

Give my love to the boys and Betty, Gene too and write real soon. Betty, Gene, you are so proud of you. You must be some girl. I am dying to see you and be with you some.

Love, and kiss, too

Francesca - 1910 - Printed from a microfilm of the original document

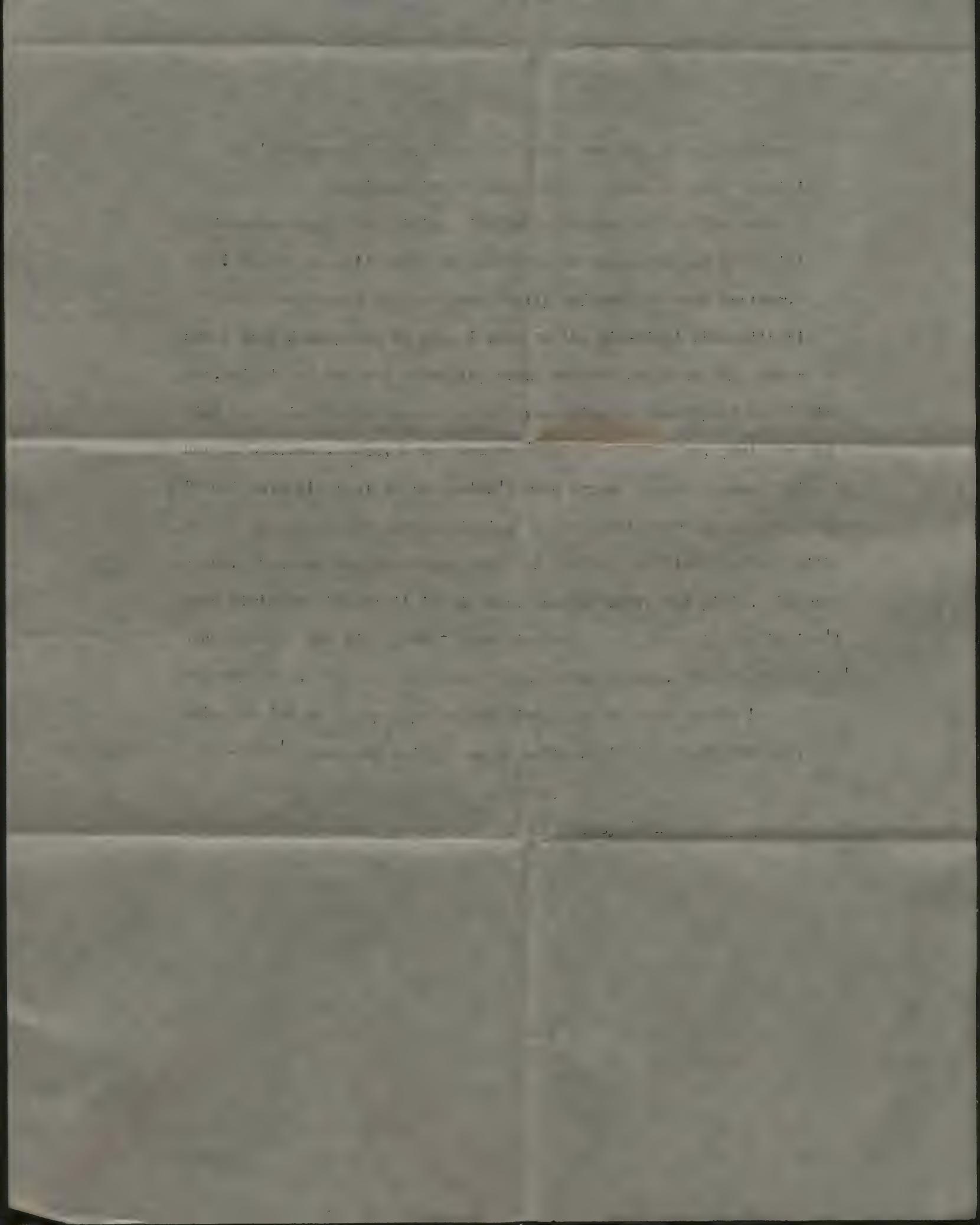


1st Lt. LaMotte E. Thornhill  
539th Bomb Sq.

A. A. B.

Muroc  
Calif.





Betty Kim



W. H. Combs & Thornhill

535th Bomb Sq.

A. A. B.

Moroc Calif.

I wrote the mon. but  
and forgot to mail it  
by Wed.

Dearest Brothers,

I don't have to do anything but practice this period so I will write to you as I think that would be a good thg to practice.

Well mother will soon be on her way, I guess. She has her reservations and everything. She is in Jackson this week getting her clothes ready. I bought her three pair of hose Sat. for a little going away present and had to tell her I had them, for she was going to buy a lot more in Jackson so I told her so hse wouldn't go and get a lot more.

Just think! we have only six more weeks of school and that will be all. I can hardly wait. I am sort of tired of school now. I do hope I get to work this summer though. I really want to so I can get myself a lot of clothes and then I won't work my senior year, just have a darn good time. I am having fun now but I never get to go anywhere for the week-end cause I work. Like I want to spend the week-end with Doris, I can't because I don't get off till 7:30 and then there's no bus going to Liberty.

I don't know anything to write except that I went to the show Sat. night with Johnny and saw It Happened Tomorrow. I thought it was good but it was very odd. I liked it though. Sun. afternoon I went over to Sybil's house where we made icedream. It was really good. After that we were starting to go to the drugstore and we saw W. F. and he was going to Dixie Springs to get some of the spring water for his grandfather and he asked us to ride up there with him so we did. We got back just in time to go to B.Y.P.U. After that we (six girls) went to the drug store and then to one of the girl's houses. We decided we were going to organize a club. No one will know the name of it or the motto or anything about it. We will meet every two weeks and have dues and rules and everything like a real club. We intend to have the

first meeting Sat. night at Jo's house and her mother is going to give us a spaghetti and meat ball supper and we are all going to the midnight show together. More fun ! + really do think it will be a lot of fun if we stick to it and do it right, don't you? We have to have something to do besides go to the drugstore and gossip Well + guess that's about all that I know so I will close and get ready for the speed test I have to take.

Love you,

Betty Jean

P.S. Did + tell you Johnny gave me a two-pound box of candy for Easter? yum ! yum !

658 West Sheene  
Hailey, Idaho



W. G. Talmage B. Hoornhill  
Asn. 7002200

mail Lg. #421 ex B. Knit  
Musoc.  
California

April 28, 1944  
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

I stay out here in Idaho -- on this lonely prairie -- sit a place called on the Field's. In one corner of the field is a little shack. They didn't know what to do with it so they call it "P.M." And that's where I work up - I only get around in a horse when I get back there. Just think when I have to leave my old stall day now goes off at 5 o'clock!

You can see now though - they still have a Concourse in town at night & I should see the ladies with horses. Well, the girls say they don't mind dancing with each other.

Remember what I met a friend of yours the other day - Bill Haidman - Do you remember him? He was about three years & said that you & Bob & Ray were together as Hiram Field. He rose up & tickled when I told him about you. I gave him your address and he is going to write to you. He is

and now and then I will write  
about my coming & goings. I  
would never have done it if you  
knew we would have a wonderful time.  
But, if you and Carl get very busy  
coming up, I would rather not be in being  
troubled. If everything turns out the way  
I should, and I'm a good little Indian  
man, it will make a better acting  
Wyoming than I could have done  
so far. Do you think there would be  
any chance of your being invited  
to the Grand Lodge in the winter  
to play at the new  
"The White Rose" - next  
fall?

Here it is another Friday night and  
no free lance. I have been bargaining with  
myself all day about it. My sensible half  
says "you've got my foolish half's cap" & so it is  
"Go." -- Which one do you think will win?

If not have you been doing this a real  
interesting & gay & any more - gaff (the  
dead things I mean)!

I sure wish it was the winter so you'd  
know nice and warm so I could go in

-2-

riding. She was so ambitious you might  
think I don't care for her but she  
has a great taste for a better house & likes  
big ideas!

For what I ate - nothing. A good thick  
milk-shake from Lois - Yes, Pineapple, it's an  
absolute!

I went around the house today,  
met at the Beach once (got the car back  
with). Then made a big lunch & traps out  
of beach chairs, sunshades, etc. & just lay  
around and play with the kids. It's been like  
right you know - so many wonderful hours.

Oh, another exciting incident in the river.  
Today we had a boat & bridge just below  
School in the river. Cross the river. There  
some lady decided to "Just let me go across  
it all" - and went swimming. The only  
thing wrong was she took poison first - They haven't  
found her body yet - they have been down on it  
nearly all day yesterday & today -

Oh, another thing the Col. baton has down  
our here the boys just love it. He has  
been making them go on bivouac. A lot of them  
wear the hats all the week & the rest of them  
go tomorrow. They are staying at Mikaway!

I sure think them people awful!  
Did I tell you we got 3 new baby  
sheep - we have one lamb now and  
the kids are almost up - so they still keep  
you pretty busy?

Well, Sir, I guess the little boy  
and I have had some - but this is my first  
experience! we are in such difficulties &  
such little help coming from the dead -  
I am sure you will be pleased to know  
what I do for you? I send you a few  
new things every week

Bye for now and write soon. I will  
ask Bob Kepp for me a pen top an' pen.

April 28, 1944  
Pocatello, Idaho

Dearest Brock,

Way out here in Idaho – on this lonely prairie – sits a place called an air field. In one corner of the field sits a little shack that they didn't know what to do with so they called it QM – and that's where I wound up. I really get unwound in a hurry when I get her though. Just think when I have to behave myself all day how good I feel at 5 o'clock!

You [damage] here now though. Only about 10 [damage] can come in town at night [damage] should see the Friday night dances. Oh well, the girls say they don't mind dancing with each other.

Guess what – I met a friend of ours the other day – Bill Weideman. Do you remember him? He was overseas three years & said that you & Bob & Ray were together at Hickam field. He sure was tickled when I told him about you. I gave him your address and he is going to write you. He is married now and his wife is here with him.

About my coming to California. Well, I would really love to come – no fooling. I know we would have a wonderful time, but right now I can't get any leave. I'm learning Sgt. Leonard's job and he is being transferred. If everything turns out the way it should and I am a good little kid & behave myself it will mean a better rating. Isn't that wonderful. Then I would come down & celebrate. Do you think there would be a chance of your coming up? Gee, I hope so cause we could really have a wonderful time. Jimmy Lunceford and his orchestra are going to play at the new [damage] next week. Gee, I wish we could go together.

Here it is another Friday night and another dance. I have been arguing with myself all day about it. My sensible half says "stay home" and my foolish half says "go on and go". Which one do you think will win?

What have you been doing that is real interesting. Played any more golf (the real thing I mean).

I sure wish that the weather here would turn nice and warm so I could go bicycle riding. Ge, was I ambitious last night. I walked home from over by the Green Lantern. We went over there to a lady's house to dinner. Gee, did I eat!

Know what I'd like right now. A good thick milk shake from Jay's – yes, pineapple if you please!

I haven't seen Wanda for a couple of days. We were at the base dance together Tuesday night. They moved a big bunch of troops out of here again Tuesday. Gee, I wish they would send you back here. Remember the night you ate too many marshmallows?

I had some excitement in the neighborhood yes [damage] know that bridge just below the school [damage] cross the river. Well, some lady decided to "just get away

from it all" so she went swimming. The only thing wrong was she took poison first. They found her body yet – they have been down on the river all day yesterday & today.

Oh, another thing that Col. Eaton has done out here that the boys just love – he has been making them go on bivouac. A lot of them went the first of the week & the rest of them go tomorrow. They are staying at Midway! I sure think that's silly, don't you?

Did I tell you that I got to see a B29 plane. There was one landed here on the field and we went up on the line to see it. Gee, are they big. Do they still keep you pretty busy?

Well Doc, I guess that I had better hurry up if I don't want to walk home. Not that I'd mind – not much! Sure wish I could look out and see the little Redford coming down the road. By the way, how is it? Of course you know what I'd do, don't you? I'd just run over and jump in and away we'd go.

Bye for now and write soon. Tell Bob hello for me. Gee, I hope you can come.

[damage]

Sgt. John C. McClendon 34216398  
Co. A. 310<sup>th</sup> Med. Bn. A.P.O. 85  
70 PM. N.Y. N.Y.

Air Mail



T/Sgt. James B. Thornhill  
539<sup>th</sup> Sq.(H) A.A.F.  
Moroc, Calif.

April 30<sup>th</sup>  
5:30pm. at Italy

Dear Bobt Brock:

I received your nice long letter last night and  
can't begin to tell you how glad it was to hear  
from you again. It was a long time between  
letters. Why now about us just as you headed  
west back there, every so often, and not wait  
until we received a letter all takes so damn long  
for a letter to come. etc. took your letter  
one more in to it here. I promise I will well  
write more often in the future. (that is if you  
can find sometime to call my own, for I am  
in combat now)

Boy you can really appreciate in combat  
you get enjoyed by my mistake was out there.  
I missed the bullet could hear, the utter noise,  
now but instead down there in the air  
of a place with nothing but rocks. I haven't  
had but one piece of fruit since I left  
the states. A.D. that was a French salami  
apricot. Haven't had much chance to find  
any here. I have only been to one little town  
since I came, to Italy, and it was on my mind  
I think tho that when we get a rest period  
we will be able to go to town or pass. I hope  
it's not shown horny.

That is no awful fight over there seems  
not to exist now. I know she will have the  
time of her life. I am as happy for her there were  
never two sweeter persons in this world than  
my mother & my Aunt Jessie. They should have  
been twins. Your mother has always been  
my favorite don't she writes me often &  
she says her letters so much, for they are always  
a nearly a & sweet.

They say that China is break & mighty fast  
but that isn't in it yet & I am not so

will mind up all the time, take care of they  
expect us to pass over almost without a wish  
it were possible for me to get back to you,  
before that time come. But under you are in  
the Army you miss out a lot of things, don't  
you? No

Well, I am right in here where the war still goes on & the big guns are shooting & shells  
bursting all around us day and night. At first  
it was scary, but after a few days of it I got  
used to them. I do now, but don't let that make me  
careless by the sound of them when they come  
whipping by, whether they are enemy or ours.  
We have had a few come close, but so far none  
have hurt anyone or personnel. There's hope  
but luck's holdout.

We have a pretty good setup here. Me and the  
boys in my platoon live upstairs in a big  
room of an elevation house. Half of my boys  
are always out on duty, so therefore the other  
half of myself have plenty of room. We have  
tables, chairs, typewrks, pictures, stuck all  
over the wall. I even got me a pair of helping  
hands one day and rigged up this is the  
first time I have had anyone help me with the work  
you'd never know we're overseas. It'd be just like  
you feel good it's been a storm.

No doubt you know what my job is. It's pretty  
rough sometimes. Right now, though,  
all running very smooth.

Well boys close & this is about all for now  
- will sign off for now. Thank you for the  
nice long letter, let's be having another  
one real soon. Bye now.

Your Cousin,  
John

April 30, 1944  
Italy

Dear Bob & Brock,

I received your nice long letter last night and can't begin to tell you how glad I was to hear from y'all again. It was a long time between letters. Say how about us just going ahead and write each other every so often and not wait until we receive a letter. It takes so darn long for a letter to go or come. It took your letter one month to get here. I promise y'all I will write more often in the future (that is if I can find some time to call my own, for I am in combat now)

Boy you can really have a time in Calif. can't you? I enjoyed every minute I was out there. I wish to hell I could be out there with y'all now. But instead I am stuck in this asshole of a place with nothing but wops. I haven't had but one piece of cunt since I left the states and that was a French gal in Africa. I haven't had much chance to find any here. I have only been to one little town since I came to Italy, and it was in ruins. I think tho that when we get a rest period we will be able to go to town on pass. I hope so for I am horny.

That is wonderful that Aunt Bess is coming out to visit y'all. I know she will have the time of her life. I am so happy for her. There were never two sweller persons in this world than my mother and my Aunt Bess. They should have been twins. Your mother has always been my favorite aunt. She writes me often and I enjoy her letters so much as they are always so newsy and sweet.

They say that grandma is breaking mighty fast and that she is getting blind and her mind is getting messed up. All the folks talk as if they expect her to pass away almost anytime. I wish it were possible for me to get back to see her before that time comes. But when you are in the Army you miss out on a lot of things, don't you?

Well I am right in here where the real McCoy is going. The big guns are shooting and shells bursting all around us day and night. At first I was jumpy, but after a few days of it I got used to them. And now they don't bother me. I can tell by the sound of them when they come whizzing by whether they are enemy or ours. We have had a few come close, but so far none have hurt any of our personnel. Here's hoping our luck holds out.

We have a pretty good setup here. Me and the boys in my platoon live upstairs in a big room of an Italian house. Half of my boys are always out on duty, so therefore the other half and myself have plenty of room. We have tables, chairs, pretty girl's pictures stuck all over the Wall's. I found me a pair of bedsprings and have me a good bed rigged up. This is the first time I have had my ass off the hard ground since I came overseas, and boy it sure does feel good. I sleep up a storm.

I am liaison Sgt. for a collecting company, so no doubt you know what my job is. It gets pretty rough sometimes. Right now things are running very smooth.

Well boys I guess this is about all for now so will say so long for now. Thanks for the nice long letter. Let's be having another one real soon. Bye now,

Your cousin, John



Tech. Sgt. - Images Rock C. P. G.  
Aug 11, 1944 Z. I.  
Muro  
Tiburon

73 Brooklyn Ave.  
New Orleans, La - 20

Dearest Frank & Bob,

I guess you'll really be surprised to receive this letter. I've written to Faetty Jean to send your address's but she always forgets to put it in. She spent both weeks-end with me, sure did enjoy her visits. Almost like old time.

I know you two have really enjoyed having Aunt Bessie out with you. She wrote me a card and said she was having a wonderful time. I wrote her a letter to meet aunt Bessie here in New Orleans & stay with her while she was waiting for her next train out. But, we were in Baton Rouge spending the weekend with James' parents & his wife.

Jr. came down today to spend the summer with us & work until school starts. Jr. hasn't yet got to finish school. He will be 18 in Jan. He will only get a half credit on all his subjects. But he said he was going to Christmas so he could play football. He's in first team, he plays tackle -

if you know I'll be married one year  
this month (the 19) it really doesn't seem  
that long.

Jack has a better job now. He works  
for the Young. Mak - mole + son put in  
more time. I suppose you all will be  
finishing up soon - we are though?

Is there's nothing new with us  
all please for this time hoping to hear  
from you real soon.

Lots of love  
Sally.

### My Address:

Mrs. Jack Walker  
172 Brooklyn Ave  
N.W. Dennis  
Mass June 20 -

June 6, 1944

Dearest Brock & Bob,

I guess you'll really be surprised to receive this letter. I've written to Betty Jean to send you address's but she always forgets to put it in. She spent last weekend with me. Sure did enjoy her visit. Almost like old times.

I know you two have really enjoyed having Aunt Bessie wit with you. She wrote me a card and said she was having a wonderful time. Ava wrote me a letter to meet Aunt Bessie here in New Orleans & stay with her while she was waiting for her next train out. But, we were in Baton Rouge spending the weekend with James Owens & his wife.

Jo came down today to spend the summer with us & work until school starts. Jo won't get to finish school. He will be 18 in Jan. He will only get a half credit on all his subjects. But he said he was going to Christmas so he could play football. He's on first team, he plays tackle.

Did you know I'll be married one year this month (the 19<sup>th</sup>). It really doesn't seem that long.

Jack has a better job now. He works for the Navy. Makes more & can put in more time. I suppose you all will be having a furlough before long?

As there's nothing new with us I'll close for this time. Hoping to hear from you real soon.

Lots of Love,

Betty

2667 Westches Drive, Hoboken.

June 7, 1944

Dear Mrs. Borahle:

I was glad to hear that you have been visiting the sun in California. What joy for the old folk here for you.

I got a nice letter from back with 1000 surface and 1000 bed in that you made back a hundred and that "Fascinating," I guess about "fascinating" the letters will be it all "fascinating." I realize that it is hard for there to be a sit down and write letters when there is so much nothing interesting to write about, but they really do. How are you and up the local account of how you have left him at the service station and how he had to crawl his way back.

He is writing his son at Peoria Hospital where Mr. Stoll is confined with a head illness in a room almost opposite to the one I occupied when I was there with a fractured head. He has been here two weeks ago today, and I am glad to say, has taken a turn for the better, after a hard time of suffering past week. After another week or so, we hope to have him home in the cool shade trees of Franklin Drive, which direct from Mt. Franklin, instead of blowing over many of the houses and factories, would be more healing than the air down here.

"My son, the one who is a Lieutenant commander in

The house is showing in well as it is now, and  
those outside of the Foundation, etc., say work to you  
is never, when we believe it has no place to move  
it to or there are no foundries, iron works or such places to  
get it from. We do not want to be held up in  
work for want of find iron.

Dear going to the end of Karen and his family. Two  
children and a baby boy. It is quite sufficient for  
our part of the house and includes the rooms where the  
boys will be at work.

We will enjoy seeing my two grandchildre

2667 Tantalus Drive  
Hololulu  
June 7, 1944

Dear Mrs. Thornhill,

I was glad to hear that you have been visiting the boys in California. What a joy for them as well as for you.

I got a nice letter from Brock much to my surprise, and when he told me that you were there I laughed and told Barbara, "I guess that explains the letter. I'll bet she prodded him". I realize that it is hard for these boys to sit down and write letters. They think they have nothing interesting to write about, but hey really have. How we laughed at Brocks account of how Bob drove off and left him at the service station, and how he had to thumb his way back.

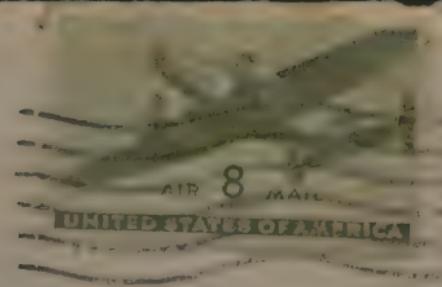
I am writing this down at Queen's hospital where Mr. Wall is confined with a heart attack in a room almost opposite to the one I occupied when I was here with a fractured head. He has been here two weeks ago today, and I am glad to say, has taken a turn for the better after a hard time of suffering last week. After another week or so, we hope to take him home as the cool breezes of Tantalus Drive coming direct from Mt. Tantalus, instead of blowing over many other houses and factories, would be more healing than the air down here.

My son, the one who is a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy, is moving in with us. He is giving up all private practice at Eva Plantation, as his navy work keeps him busy. They are lucky to have our place to move in to, as there are no houses, apartments, or even rooms to be had in town. Thousands more could be used if it were possible to find them.

I am giving to the use of Garton and his family three bedrooms and a bathroom. It is quite separate from our part of the house and includes the rooms where the boys used to sleep.

We will enjoy having my two grandchildren.

R. Stephenson  
Box 203  
Calexico, Calif.



Hgt. I. B. Thornhill  
Squadron H, 421st Base Unit  
A. A. B.  
Muroc, Calif.

Tuesday night  
August 22, 1934

Lester Brock,

This letter leaves  
me in Calipico. One never  
knows where my next  
letter will be mailed  
from.

Had a letter from  
you while we were  
in Boulevard. The stack  
is slowly growing —  
that's how.

Bee & I took her  
aunt Lura's car & went  
to San Diego Saturday to  
see her brother Jim.  
Came back to Boulevard

Saturday afternoon  
picked up our bags  
(suit cases) & came on!  
Here.

Grace & Joe took  
us to Mexicali Sat.  
night. Got a little bit  
hay, ate tacos then  
came home. The dives  
stay open till about  
5 o'clock (A.M.).

Sunday night we  
went out with Bee's  
uncle & cousin to haul  
hay. Should've seen us  
in blue jeans riding  
on top of the hay in  
layers high. We  
were famous for all

get out.

Bee drove the truck  
12 hrs. last night  
for her dad in the  
hay fields. She's  
working again to-night.

I worked in the  
service station today.  
Grace or the kids  
usually run it - but  
now I'm the grease-  
monkey. It's really  
big old fun.

All in all we're  
having a gay old time.

Guess you know  
I'm moving one Brock  
Thornhill. Will be  
2 weeks tomorrow.

In a few days Bee's Uncle Joe is going to Yisalia to get some of their belongings — so-s-o Beez & I are going with him as far as Fresno. Will stay about 2 days, then he'll pick us up on his way back.

Had a letter from Mother. Says the next time we come home you boys will have to stay at our place a few days; I.K.?? (& I'm taking it for granted that you'll let us go along.).

While we were in  
Boulevard - the last of  
the week I had a couple  
of letters come here &  
Grace knowing me  
only by "Rebel" sent  
them back. Thought  
maybe one might have  
been from you. If so,  
just be sending it back  
'caus now they know  
my real name.

Guess we'll be here  
for quite a while yet.  
They're treating us  
pretty swell. It snowed  
them a little bit.

I wrote you a long  
letter last night, but it

went in the waste basket.  
After reading it over,  
I decided it was  
entirely the wrong thing.

You're sort of a hard  
person to write to you  
know. I guess maybe  
it's because I've never  
known you to have a  
serious thought.

I appear as such  
myself - but once in  
a while I get a little  
"mood" & like to cry on  
some one's shoulder -  
literally speaking. I was  
in that mood last night.  
Guess I'll be on  
my way now.

Hello to Bob - the  
damn rebel. If  
he gives you any  
trouble - just let  
me know and I'll  
fix him.

Bee will write to  
him when she gets a  
little time. She slept  
all day to-day.

Love to you,

Nina

P.P. address (for quicker delivery)

P. O. Box 203  
Calexico, Calif.

August 22, 1944  
N. Stephenson  
Box 203  
Calexico, Calif

Dearest Brock,

This letter leaves me in Calexico. One never knows here my next letter will be mailed from.

Had a letter from you while we were in Boulevard. The stack is lowly growing- That's 3 now.

Bee & I took her Aunt Lura's car & went to San Diego Saturday to see her brother Jim. Came back to Boulevard Saturday afternoon picked up our bags (suitcases) & came on here.

Grace & Joe took us to Mexicali Sat. night. Got a little bit gay-ate tacos then came home. The dives stay open till about 5 o'clock (am).

Sunday night we went out with Bee's uncle & cousin to haul hay. Should've seen us in blue jeans riding on top of the hay-six layers high. We were glamourous as all get out.

Bee drove the truck 12 hrs last night for her dad in the hay fields. She's working again tonight.

I worked in the service station today. Grace or the kids usually run it-but now I'm the grease monkey. It's really big old fun.

All in all we're having a gay old time.

Guess you know I'm missing one Brock Thornhill. Will be two weeks tomorrow.

In a few days Bee's Uncle Joe is going to Visalia to get some of their belongings-sooo Bee's & I are going with him as far as Fresno. Will stay about 2 days, then he'll pick us up on his way back.

Had a letter from Mother. Says the next time we come home you boys will have to stay at our place a few days. OK?? (I'm taking it for granted that you'll let us go along).

While we were in Boulevard - the last of the week - I had a couple of letters come here & Grace - knowing me only by "Rebel" sent them back. Thought maybe one might have been from you. If so, just be sending it back cause now they know my real name.

Guess we'll be here for quite a while yet. They're treating us pretty swell. We snowed them a little bit.

I wrote you a long letter last night, but it went in the waste basket. After reading it over, I decided it was entirely the wrong thing.

You're sort of a hard person to write to you know. I guess maybe it's because I've never known out ha have a serious thought.

I appear as such myself – but once in a while I get a little "moody" & like to cry on someone's shoulder – literally speaking. I was in that mood last night. Guess I'll be on my way now.

Hello to Bob – the "damn rebel". If he gives you any trouble - just let me know and I'll fix him.

Bee will write to him when she gets a little time. She slept all day today.

Love to you, Nina

PS address (for quicker delivery)

PO Box 203

Calexico, Calif.

P. Stephenson  
Box 203.  
Calexico, Calif.



T/Sgt. T.B. Hornhill  
Squadron H, 421st Base Unit  
Army Air Base  
Muroc, California

Wed., Aug. 32, '44

To Martin:

Received your letter  
written Aug. 21st yesterday.  
It was forwarded to me  
from Boulevard. So  
you weren't lying about  
having written 2 letters.

Bob called Bee yesterday.  
She was sick in bed but  
got up to talk to him.  
She's been feeling very low.  
I took her to the Doctor  
& he gave her a Syppi  
& some pills. She's a  
bit better today.

Very planning to  
leave here tomorrow noon.

Will take the train to  
S.A & be there about  
4 days.

If you've got a pass,  
I'll probably be seeing  
you before you receive  
this letter.

I miss you pretty  
much you know. - More  
than I like to admit

I  
Love to you,  
Nina

P.S. I liked your letter!

Wed, Aug. 30, '44

Hi Darlin' (Brock)

Received your letter written Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> yesterday. It was forwarded to me from Boulevard. So you weren't lying about having written 2 letters.

Bob called Bee yesterday. She was sick in bed but hot up to talk to him. She's been feeling very low. I took her to the doctor & he gave her a hypo & some pills. She's a bit better today.

We're planning to leave here tomorrow noon. We'll take the train to L.A. & be there about 4 days.

If you can get a pass I'll probably be seeing you before you receive this letter.

I miss you pretty much you know. More than I'd like to admit.

Love to you,

Nina

PS I liked your letter.

~~OBINSON AVIATION, INC.~~

~~30 FIFTH AVE., NEW YORK 10, N.Y.~~

~~LESSOR TO C. S. ROBINSON AERIAL SURVEYS, ITHACA, N.Y.~~

~~WPA Division~~

~~27 Hollywood Blve.~~

Rock

Saturday, 10-24-44

Dick Darling,

I received your letter yesterday.  
I must tell you I love you more.  
I do true love. I don't think it  
would matter to you that I told everyone  
you were. I am very sorry  
it won't happen again.

Always yours,  
Vivian

Tuesday 10-24-44

Brock darling,

I received you letter yesterday. Permit me to say that I love you more.

To be truthful, I didn't think it would matte to you - my dating someone else. I see I was wrong darling. It won't happen again.

Forever yours,

Nina

2607 Sausalito Drive, Honolulu  
February 22, 1944

Air  
Mail

Dear Mrs. Morris:

I have tried to write to you many times but something always seemed to interfere & me and they were never mailed. I think I saw one of them around yesterday. Mr. Hall's long illness and then my own break down caused all my blame.

We did not enjoy Major Rose's visit but we hated to see him go. Surprised with I can imagine how you all miss him. We were regretful that he was such a long time letting us know he was in town especially at the Hotel where he was as often as only about two or three minutes drive from here.

Naughty Bob broke down and wrote me another letter recently the first since July last year, but Brock has been better now. Bob says he would rather be shooting in the world than write a letter, but he wrote a very good letter when he did. He does not want the burden, to be a bore to them and I think it will relieve them and release them from the burden. I will know (or hope) that they think of us sometimes.

It looks as though Barbara will make her home on the mainland, and I

think when we go, I will go on if I  
can get the article finished at night and  
will mail some days.

Air  
Mail

We were much interested in Nagano  
description of the place you all are running.  
I think it must be very interesting work  
and will give you something to think about  
while he is gone.

I want to thank you for your  
opinion of my article on the case  
of Mr. Wall. It is very hard to get re-  
adjusted, and that is one reason I  
want to go up with Barbara.

I have been under days in the  
hospital recently. It was sort of a  
collapse after the trip home, but they  
found me suffering from an acute attack of  
tinea tronice and they sent it away by  
giving me a bath and a glass of ice water and  
medicine Penicil. Within twenty-four  
hours all symptoms had disappeared. I  
got home to my room three hours eight and half  
last night but today, five. I feel like a new  
born person.

Please thirty nine more when I write no  
and don't forget everyone is well.

Sincerely

Edith D. Wall

2667 Tantalus Drive  
Honolulu  
October 25, 1944

Dear Mrs. Thornhill,

I have started to write to you many times but something always seemed to interrupt me and they were never mailed. I think I saw one of them around yesterday. Mr. Wall's long illness and then my own breakdown changed all my plans.

We did so enjoy Major Pope's visits but we hated to see him go further south. I can imagine how you all miss him. We were regretful that he was such a long time letting us know he was in town especially as the Cady's where he was so often is only about two or three minutes' drive from here.

Naughty Bob broke down and wrote me another letter recently, the first since July last year, but Brock has been better. Poor Bob says he would rather do anything in the world than write a letter but he writes a very good letter when he does. I do not want letter writing to be a bore to them and I think I will write to them and release them from the burden. I will know (or hope) that they think of us sometimes.

It looks as though Barbara will make her home on the mainland and I think when she goes, I shall go also if I can get the estate finished, so maybe we shall meet someday.

We were much interested in Major's description of the place you all are running. I think it must be very interesting work, and will give you something to think about when he is gone.

I want to thank you for your expression of sympathy in the loss of Mr. Wall. It is very hard to get readjusted, and that is one reason I want to go up with Barbara.

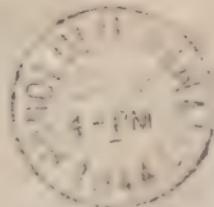
I have been twelve days in the hospital recently. It was sort of a collapse after Mr. Wall's passing but they found me suffering from an acute attack of sinus trouble, and they sent it away by giving me hypodermics of the marvelous new medicine Penicillin - within twenty four hours all symptoms had disappeared. They gave them to me every three hours night and day until I had twenty five. I feel like a new born person.

I have thirty nine more letters to write so must close hoping everyone is well.

Sincerely, Edith D Wall

2601

Non return



Flight. Talmage Brock Thornhill  
Sgt. 2nd H, 421st Base Unit  
Marine  
California

Honolulu 21, T.H.  
December 6, 1944

Dear Brock:

Thank you for your nice letter and good wishes.

Yes, I am really engaged to the most wonderful fellow there is. Mel is so thoughtful and kind and we enjoy the same things in life. The fellows out at Hickam tease me and call me "Mrs. Niccups" because his name is Hickott.

Are you terribly far from El Centro? Of course you

Bob  
will be invited, you and Brook  
if you can make it. I don't  
know just what our plans will  
be yet. Mel wants me to come  
up and there is a possibility of  
an apartment by January, but  
I don't know how long it will  
take me to wait for my passage  
and get ready.

What do you mean, you have  
tried to fall in love because you  
wanted to know what it felt like?  
Let me tell you something: You  
don't "try" to fall in love - it  
isn't anything you force yourself  
to do and most certainly not just

to find out what it is like!  
It is something that just happens  
because you love the person and  
what he or she stands for and you  
want to be a partner to stand be-  
side that person always because  
you love that person more than  
anything else in the world!

I have dance classes up  
at Iolani High School twice a  
week and they want me to give  
a third. I've had an offer to  
teach 100 students three times a  
week at McKinley High after  
December, but I may be preparing  
to leave so I don't know.

How nice that you and Bob  
are working in your own time.  
What kind of work do you do?  
You must have fun with your  
car.

Mel works in town in  
El Centro every evening after work  
in a Typewriter store repairing  
machines. He is earning extra money  
for our home or for a little  
bank account when we are married.  
I'm glad Ava got the message.  
I haven't heard from her.

How is your Mother? Please  
give her my love when you write.  
I am now down at Church  
at our Service Center working in

We have enjoyed the  
bright paper.

We have enjoyed a fire in  
our fireplace lately, and it is very  
cosy.

How about a letter from Bob?  
The barn hasn't written, you know.  
You speak for him as well as  
yourself, but that won't do.  
How about speaking for yourself,  
John?

Are you going home for  
Christmas this year? I hope all  
of you have a grand Christmas.

My love to you and  
Bob,  
Barbara

Honolulu, HI  
December 6, 1944

Dear Brock,

Thank you for your nice letter and good wishes.

Yes, I really am engaged to the most wonderful fellow there is. Mel is so thoughtful and kind and we enjoy the same things in life. The fellows our at Hickam tease me and call me "Mrs. Hiccups" because his last name is Hickok.

Are you terribly far from El Centro? Of course you will be invited, you and Bob if you can make it. I don't know just what our plans will be yet. Mel wants me to come up and there is a possibility of our apartment by January, but I don't know how long it will take me to wait for my passage and get ready.

What do you mean, you have tried to fall in love because you wanted to know what it felt like? Let me tell you something: You don't "try" to fall in love – it isn't anything you force yourself to do and most certainly not just to find out what it is like! It is something that just happens because you love the person and what her or she stands for and you want to be a partner to stand beside that person always because you love that person more than anything else in the world.

I have dance classes up at Iolani High School twice a week and they want me to give a third. I've had an offer to teach 100 students three times a week at McKinley High after December, but I may be preparing to leave so I don't know.

How nice that you and Bob are working in your spare time. What kind of work do you do? You must have fun with your car.

Mel works in town in El Centry every evening after work in a Typewriter store repairing machines. He is earning extra money for our home or for a little bank account when we are married.

I'm glad Ava got the message. I haven't heard from her.

How is your Mother? Please give her my love when you write.

I am now down at Church at our Service Center working in the office, so please excuse the different paper,

We have enjoyed a fire in our fireplace lately, and it is very cozy.

How about a letter from Bob? The bum hasn't written , you know. You speak for him as well as yourself, but that won't do. How about speaking for yourself, John?

Are you going home fro Christmas this year? I hope all of you have a grand Christmas.

My aloha to you and Bob, Barbara



**ENGAGEMENT TOLD**—Miss Barbara Louise Wall, daughter of Mrs. Walter E. Wall and the late Mr. Wall, whose engagement to M.T/Sgt. Melvin Lloyd Hickok, USMC, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Hickok of Janesville, Wis., is announced by her mother. The bride-elect is a member of a kamaaina family. No date has been set for the wedding. (Mildred McClurg Studio).

## Wall-Hickok Troth Revealed

Mrs. Walter E. Wall announces the engagement of her daughter Barbara Louise, to M. T/Sgt Melvin Lloyd Hickok, USMC, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Hickok of Janesville, Wis. No date has been set for the wedding.

The bride-elect, daughter of the late Mr. Wall and member of a kamaaina family, was graduated from Roosevelt High school and Margaret Dietz Commercial school. Since war broke out, she has been an instructor in her own dancing school. Her father was surveyor general of the Territory and her grandfather, the late Mr. Charles J. Wall, was architect for the Palace, the Judiciary and other public buildings.

Her fiance attended Milton college in Milton, Wis. and is past master in De Molay Masonic lodge. At present he is at bombardier and gunnery school, in charge of a unit in El Centro, Cal.

*Robinson*  
ROBINSON AVIATION, INC.  
First National Building  
Hollywood 28, California



3  
Sgt. T. B. Thornhill  
Squadron H, 421st Base  
Army Air Base  
Muroc, Calif.

Vibration Control  
Engineers

12-19-44

Hi Darling,

Miss me? You'd better!

Haven't found any decorations yet - but still looking.

Haven't thought of any suitable excuse for our getting away from the house - therefore, you'd better think of something. - ORDERS!!!

Believe it or not, I'm still in love with you. Odd, isn't it?

Sent your folks Xmas card & a package.

Did I tell you about my new suit????

P.S.

X Here's a kiss.  
O.K.?

I love you,  
Fina

Nina Stephenson  
6777 Hollywood  
Hollywood, California  
12-19-1944

Hi Darling,

Miss Me? You'd better!

Haven't found any decoration yet – but still looking.

Haven't thought of any suitable excuses for our getting away from the house – therefore you'd better think of something. –ORDERS!!!

Believe it or not, I'm still in love with you. Odd, isn't it?

Sent your folks Xmas card & a package.

Did I tell you about my new suit???

I love you,

Nina

PS X Here's a kiss. OK?